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JUL 1 1955

The Honorable Carl Vinson, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

25X1A9a I appreciate the opportunity offered by your letter of January 17, 1955 to comment on the bill, H. R. 916, introduced by Congressman Cole. The case of [] has, of course, received much publicity, and the facts generally are a matter of public record.

25X1A9a The records indicate that [] was selected not only for his military qualifications but for his qualities of integrity, strength of character, and devotion to American ideals. In itself, to parachute into strange country occupied by hostile forces takes a high degree of courage and fortitude. These were magnified by the particular circumstances obtaining in the area where [] landed. From that point to the time of his death he carried out his assigned mission with exemplary ability and courage under constantly hazardous conditions. There is no question of [] honorable conduct to the moment when he met death while engaged in the performance of his official duties.

25X1A9a We trust the foregoing will be of assistance in consideration of the bill, but I feel I must add one thought. Many, many Office of Strategic Services' representatives, military and civilian, went behind enemy lines by parachute drop, by water approach, or by infiltration. Many did so in the face of circumstances equally or, in some instances, more immediately hazardous to their lives than did []. Some lost their lives and others were wounded or otherwise injured, and in some cases were captured, tortured, and executed. Many of these have already received decorations in person or posthumously.

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If it is determined to honor [] in the manner proposed by the bill, I feel it should be recognized that he was but one of a band of brave and devoted Americans who undertook service of this type with full awareness of the hazards to be encountered.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that they have no objection to the submission of this report.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

OGC:WLP/blc (6 June 55)

Rewritten(17 June 55)

Orig. & 1 - Add.

2 - Signer

2 - Legislative Counsel

1 - DD/S

1 - General Counsel w/basic